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Subject: Harbor Comments

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Submitted values are:

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Your Comments:

I am an Oregonian, a citizen of the United States of America, and a member of the human race. Water is a precious, limited natural resources that does not act according to state, or country or even economic boundaries. Wealth does not preclude the need for clean water or fish that can be eaten.

The EPA determined that the Willamette river to be a Superfund site in 2000, and sixteen years later we have a proposal for cleanup, the bulk of which is an "incredibly paltry" (Travis Williams, director of the Willamette

Riverkeeper) approach that relies on significant 'natural recovery'.

Natural recovery. This means, basically, let things sit, so that nature can heal by itself. Clearly, nature cannot recover from what humans have thrown at it thus far.

The EPA had a plan that would have removed 33 million cubic yards of contaminated soil compared with the proposed 1.8 million. Why lower the standards so far? Who will benefit from further decades of dramatically contaminated fish, soil, and water?

We need to get our priorities straight:

People over profits

- EPA should select Alternative G with additional dredging in areas of high human use, areas of high ecological value, and areas where there is high risk of re-contamination of the river.
- EPA should set much clearer timelines and metrics for success including setting an explicit date by which Portland Harbor specific fish consumption advisories will be lifted.
- EPA should select an alternative that allows all members of our community to eat fish safely from our river, including woman of childbearing age and children.
- EPA's cleanup plan should include the heavily contaminated uplands as well as the heavily contaminated river.
- EPA should do a much better job of addressing environmental justice issues, including reviewing and correcting significant deficiencies in its public engagement strategies for future phases of the Superfund process and delineating strategies for ensuring the jobs, economic benefits and other benefits associated with the Superfund process to the local community and particularly to underserved communities that have been impacted by contamination in Portland Harbor.
- EPA should eliminate the confined disposal facility which would create a permanent toxic waste dump in our river.

We cannot live without a sustainable environment. There are better ways to create industry without killing the environment on which we depend. When we take a stand that is immutable, then we make it necessary for industry to create those safer alternatives. Kickbacks and loopholes are not the answer.

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Concerned Citizen